THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (e) The Prime Minister reviewed on 29.6.96 and 3.7.96 the position relating to payment of cane arrears of about Rs. 900 crores to the cane growers. Since then all out efforts have been made by the Govt. of U.P. and the sugar factories there to clear the dues. As a result thereof, payment of Rs. 456.11 crores had already been made to the cane growers by 31.7.96.

As regards the news report in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 8.8.96 saying inter-alia that the payment is being made by way of Indira Vikas Patras, the State Government has advised that instructions have already been issued not to make payments by way of Indira Vikas Patras.

[English]

Implementation of 15-Point Programme

5539. SHRI E. AHAMED :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have since evaluated the implementation of the 15-point programme for the welfare of minorities in the various States;

(b) if so, the findings thereof along with the steps taken by the Union Government for the effective implementation of this programme in the States;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the programme in the context of the altered political situation in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction;

(e) whether the Government have since received any memorandum in this behalf from "Insaf Morcha" and "All India Milli Council"; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir. However, the implementation of the 15-Point Programme is being monitored periodically on the basis of quarterly progress reports received from the States.

(b) In the absence of evaluation report of the Programme, there are no findings. However, broad conclusions arrived at on the basis of the above said monitoring by Union Govt. are as follows :—

(i) Review meetings at the level of Chief Minister or Chief Secretary level are not being held regularly. However, review at the level of District Collector/ District Magistrate are being held regularly.

(ii) Point Nos. 1 to 7 of the 15-Point programme relate to maintenance of communal harmony and prevention of communal riots including rehabilitation of riot victims. State Govts. have furnished Nil information in their reports.

(iii) State Govts. have nominated a member of minority community on Selection Boards for jobs in police and other Govt. organisations.

(iv) State Govts. have not furnished any data about flow of benefits to minorities under various State and Central Development programmes though they have reported that they are constantly reviewing so that fair share reaches to minority communities from these programmes.

(v) Minority Grievance Committees have been set up by the State Govts.

The steps taken for effective implementation of this programme in States include the following :–

(i) States have been asked to issue instructions for the speedy disbursement of ex-gratia amount to the victims of communal riots by authorising District Collectors to draw funds from the Treasury under TR-27

(ii) States were asked to explore the possibility of organising special physical training camps for the candidates belonging to minority communities so as to train them for preparing those to compete for jobs in police services.

(iii) District Collectors have been asked to identify and recommend reputed coaching institutions under the pre-examination coaching scheme implemented by the Central Govt. so that coaching facilities are made available to them in their proximity.

(iv) States have been asked to evolve a system of nodal officers to ensure the prompt submission of progress reports on the implementation of the programme to the Central Govt.

(v) Central Govt. had organised regional meetings at various State Headquarters to review the implementation of the 15-point Programme at the State level to inject more seriousness in the implementation of the programme.

(c) and (d) The proposal for the reformulation of the existing 15-point Programme is under the consideration

of the Govt. However, the present emphasis is on the effective implementation of the existing programme.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Temples of West Bengal

5540. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to develop Belur Math Temple of Swami Vivekananda, and Dakshineswar Temple of Lord Ramakrishna in West Bengal as a centre for international pilgrimage attraction;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government also propose to avoid traffic on surface by the construction of a ropeway over Ganges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Government/Union Territories for specific projects on the basis of their merits, inter se priority and availability of funds. No proposal for development of Belur Math Temple of Swami Vivekananda, and Dakshineswar Temple of Lord Ramakrishna has been received from the State Governments.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Does not arise.

Sugar Mills

5541. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Sugar Mills working in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan alongwith their crushing capacity, location-wise;

(b) whether these sugar mills are not capable to crush all the production of sugarcane in these States;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to increase the crushing capacity of these mills;

(d) the details of the sugar mills running in loss in these States; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make these sugar mills profitable ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The details of sugar mills of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan which worked during the current sugar season 1995-96 (October-September) with their installed cane crushing capacity is attached as Statement.

(b) and (c) The percentage capacity utilisation of the sugar factories of the States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during the last three sugar seasons was as under : —

	Seasons		
State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Madhya Pradesh	78.22%	48.36%	70.85%
Rajasthan	103.0%	68.67%	77.25%

Thus the mills have not utilised their full capacity except during 1992-93 in the case of Rajasthan.

Further, 4 Letters of Intent for setting up new sugar mills and 3 Letters of Intent for expansion in the existing sugar units in the State of Madhya Pradesh and 1 Letter of Intent for expansion in an existing sugar factory in the State of Rajasthan are pending implementation.

(d) The Govt. does not maintain profit and loss accounts in respect of sugar mills.

(e) Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the concerned institutions. Financial assistance is also available from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation schemes; subject to their fulfilling of the conditions laid down.